



BY THE NUMBERS

House Committee on the Budget ♦ John R. Kasich, Chairman
309 Cannon House Office Building ♦ Washington, DC 20515 ♦ (202) 226-7270
106th Congress ♦ <http://www.house.gov/budget>

Medicare’s Regulatory Burden on Providers

16 May 2000

- < As of 1998, doctors and hospitals treating Medicare beneficiaries had to deal with more than 110,000 pages of regulations and supporting documents (see table below). Medicare has developed thousands of pages of additional regulations since then.
- < All these regulations make it far more complicated and costly for providers to serve Medicare beneficiaries. Uwe E. Reinhardt, a political economist at Princeton, recently wrote: “The statutes and rules governing Medicare . . . now run the risk of becoming themselves a form of waste, fraud, and abuse.”
- < This excessive regulation will be the focus of a hearing on Thursday, May 18, by the House Budget Committee’s Task Force on Health.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS	NUMBER OF PAGES
Medicare Laws + Related Laws (SSA+Amendments)	706
Fraud and Abuse Regulation	14,500
BBA of 1997	800
Medicare regulations (42 C.F.R.)	3,574
21 HCFA Manuals	10,500
HCFA Federal Register – (1982 – 1998)	34,000
Carrier Part B Manuals	500
Correct Coding Manual	340
Carrier News Letters	4,320
Intermediary Communicators	2,880
Intermediary Medicare Bulletins	2,250
Medicare Administrative Bulletins	5,000
Blue Cross Association Administrative Bulletins	2,500
Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carrier Manuals	418
Provider Reimbursement Review Board Decisions	24,000
HCFA Administrator Decisions	2,000
Court Decisions	1,000
OIG Federal Registers (1994 – 1998)	1,000
OIG Work Plan Compliance Program Guidance	170
Rural Health Clinic Billing Carrier Instruction Manual	300
Total	110,758

Source: Compiled by the Mayo Foundation, 1998